



Minuteman UPDATE

June 2003

Massachusetts National
Guard monthly
newsletter for members,
families, and friends

101st Engineers sent on Homeland Security mission

By Master Sgt. Pallas DeBettencourt, STARC PAO

Approximately 35 members of B Company, 101st Engineer Battalion in Reading received mobilization orders in support of Operation Noble Eagle.

Their yearlong mission will be to provide security to federal installations in the Northeast.

"The missions we are performing at home and abroad are critical to preserving the civil liberties we enjoy as Americans. We are very proud of the sacrifices being made by the soldiers, families, friends and employers," said Major General George W. Keefe, The Adjutant General of the Massachusetts National Guard.

The unit's sendoff ceremony was May 17 at Camp Curtis Guild.



Photo by Capt. Winfield Danielson, State Public Affairs Officer

Soldiers of the 101st Engineers march to the unit's deployment ceremony May 17 at Camp Curtis Guild. The soldiers will provide security at federal installations.

This month in history

During June 1944 units of the Massachusetts National Guard were involved in the following operations:

1. The Americal Division, half of which was comprised of Mass. National Guard soldiers including the **182nd Infantry Division**, were engaged in offensive operations against Japanese forces on the island of Bougainville in the South Pacific.
2. The **191st Tank Battalion** of the Mass. National Guard enters Rome, Italy.
3. **Mass. Air Guard, 39th Photo Reconnaissance Squad** (formerly the 101st Observation Squadron) was deployed in England and active in France.

101st Artillery soldiers return and leave for Enduring Freedom mission

By Master Sgt. Pallas DeBettencourt, STARC PAO

About a half dozen soldiers of E Battery, 101st Field Artillery from Rehoboth returned from a yearlong overseas deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The Massachusetts National Guard sent these soldiers overseas in support of America's war on terrorism. The battery's yearlong mission was to detect incoming munitions and help direct counter-fire operations.

"The soldiers performed in the outstanding fashion that is expected of Massachusetts National Guardsmen," said Major General George W. Keefe, Adjutant General of the Massachusetts

National Guard. "The six members received four Army Commendation Medals and two Bronze Stars for their excellent performance."

These soldiers, already replaced by approximately 6 members of the same battery, will focus on training soldiers that may be called to serve in future missions. The soldiers come from Acushnet, Fall River, Milford, Swansea, Taunton and Pawtucket, Rhode Island.

A brief ceremony, attended by family, the American Legion and friends was held June 1 to honor these soldiers who continually train and perform to standards of excellence.

Elementary school students take over 181st Engineers

By Sgt. June A. Norton, HQ 181st Engineer Battalion

The 181st Engineer Battalion was invaded by a bunch of third graders.

On June 3 some 16 students from the Balmer Elementary School in Whitinsville marched up the steps and invaded the battalion headquarters. Accompanied by their mastermind teacher, Miss. Mahoney, the student's first mission was to watch a short video on a civic action project in Benedum, W. Va. The battalion's soldiers helped build an airport in that state.

The video gave the class a feel for what the National Guard can do for the community. They also commandeered several Meals Ready to Eat to learn what soldiers eat when out in the field. One student remarked, "Wow, you guys get candy!" It was clear they were impressed.

Next was a move into the drill shed to learn how field communications are handled. Assisted by Sgt. 1st Class Javier Viera of HHC, each student learned how the phones were connected to operate in a field environment and got a turn to talk to each other on field phones.

Although they were difficult for the students to get the hang of, it was apparent they were enjoying themselves. However, they were all thankful that only the military has to use field phones.



Photo by Sgt. June A. Norton, HQ 181st Engineer Battalion

Balmer Elementary School students try out an Army field telephone. Sixteen third graders from the Whitinsville school visited the 181st Engineer Battalion headquarters this month.

The final mission for the students was to see and sit in several military vehicles. Led by Maj. Joseph Zuffanti, the 181st Engineer's executive officer, the students were given the opportunity to sit behind the wheel of a 40-ton trailer, a 5-ton maintenance vehicle and a small emplacement excavator. They were in awe of how high the driver sits in the 40-ton trailer and how big the steering wheels were.

Their mission was a great success. After asking many questions and taking even more notes, they returned to their school with a better understanding of what the 181st Engineer Battalion and the Army National Guard can do in the community.

Upon their departure, several students promised to come back...once they graduated from high school.

It was a 'Fun Day' for New Ludlow Elementary kids

By 2nd Lt. Anthony Falvey, 79th Troop Command PAO



Photo by 2nd Lt. Anthony Falvey, 79th Troop Command
Sgt. Michael Norton, a medic with Co. A, 118th Medical shows students some medical gear.

Students from the New Ludlow Elementary School in Worcester had a 'Fun Day' with the National Guard.

Soldiers from Co. A, 118th Medical Battalion of Concord and HHC 181st Engineer Bn. of Whitinsville came to the school to show youngsters medical and transport vehicles.

"As soon as the students noticed the big green Army trucks, you could sense their excitement," said Dr. Sheila Graham, New Ludlow's principal.

'Fun Day,' on June 5, was sponsored by the New Ludlow Elementary School Parents-Teachers Organization in partnership with the National Guard. Sgt. June Norton of the 181st Engineer Battalion is president of the PTO.

Sgt. Norton and her husband, the 118th Medical's Sgt. Michael Norton, recruited Spc. Marcia White and Pfc. Ryan Murphy of the 181st Engineers Battalion to transport the two military vehicles to the school.



Gov. Romney reappoints Maj. Gen. Keefe as Adjutant General

By Capt. Winfield Danielson, State Public Affairs Officer

Maj. Gen. George W. Keefe was recently re-appointed as The Adjutant General by Gov. Mitt Romney.

As The Adjutant General, Keefe serves as the Governor's senior military advisor. Keefe also reports to the Chief, National Guard Bureau.

Under Keefe's watch the Massachusetts National Guard has mobilized more soldiers and airmen than at any time since World War II.

Despite these demands, the Massachusetts National Guard has made great strides in both recruiting and retention.

The Massachusetts Army National Guard went from being ranked 54th in readiness among U.S. states and territories to 28th – an advance of 26 places in less than three years.

"It's not me," Keefe said. "The improvements we've seen are really a tribute to the hard work of the soldiers, airmen and civilian employees of this organization. I've done nothing but try to let them do their job."

Three new medals established

President George W. Bush and Congress have recently authorized new medals to recognize members of the Armed Forces who have served so valiantly in support of freedom around the globe.

By executive order, the President authorized two new medals to recognize those serving in the global war on terrorism.

The Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal will recognize servicemembers who deployed overseas as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The Global War on Terrorism Service Medal will recognize those who served in support of Operation Noble Eagle. The Department of Defense is working out the details for the award of these two medals.

In a separate action, Congress has taken action to recognize the members of the Armed Forces who have served in the Republic of Korea since the signing of the 1953 cease-fire agreement that ended the Korean conflict.

Section 543 of the Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003, Public Law 107-314, was signed into law by President Bush on December 2, 2002. It requires the Secretaries of the military departments to issue a campaign medal, to be known as the **Korea Defense Service Medal**, to servicemembers who served in the Republic of Korea or the waters adjacent thereto, during the period beginning on July 28, 1954, and ending on a date yet to be determined.

Each service Secretary will prescribe the requirements for the new medal.



Photo by Spc. Matthew Benedetti, STARC PAO

Now we're cooking!

Master Sgt. Dennis Martin of 51st Troop Command cooks up hot dogs during Eddie Andelman's Hot Dog Safari to benefit the Joey Fund.

Hot Dog! Soldiers help fight Cystic Fibrosis at annual Joey Fund benefit

By Spc. Matthew Benedetti, STARC PAO

National Guard soldiers were cooking as radio sportscaster Eddie Andelman's 13th annual Hot Dog Safari raised \$175,000 for the research and treatment of Cystic Fibrosis.

The soldiers grilled up the hot dogs and sausages for some 50,000 people at the annual event, which raises money for The Joey Fund. The event was held May 18 at Suffolk Downs in East Boston.

Capt. Phil Touchette was in charge of the 50 soldiers who cooked 135,000 hot dogs. To Sgt. Ryan Taylor of the 726 Finance Co., the soldiers not only did the cooking, but also helped people feel at ease. "It was my first time participating in this event and I hope to be here again. Kids seemed to be in awe of the uniform and people appeared to be more comfortable that we were there."

Guard helps more than 400 special athletes

By Spc. Matthew Benedetti, STARC PAO

On May 10, more than 400 Cape area kids had a great day at the Special Olympics at Barnstable High School.

Members of the Army National Guard from Camp Edwards participated in the festivities and presented contestants with the awards.

The Special Olympics has become a cherished tradition to the families and friends of children with Down Syndrome. All participants win medals and enjoy the spirit of the event.

National Guard volunteers included: 1st Lt. Jerrime Oliver, Sgt, 1st Class Frank Murphy, Staff Sgts. Thomas Klimm and Gary Adams, Sgt. Russell Nord, Sgt. Robert Silva and Pfc. Frederick Rockett.

Sgt. 1st Class Murphy whose granddaughter participated said, "We all had a great time and would do it again next year."

Brian Dextradour of the Greater Cape and Islands Special Olympics Committee was grateful to the Guard for their help.

"They did a great job, and hung in until the last competition and the last athlete honored. We were proud to have them on our team. The games were a great success for the athletes who took special pride in their accomplishments, and in the special honor of receiving medals from these men in uniform," Dextradour said.

For their part, the Massachusetts Army National Guard soldiers were happy to contribute to this important community tradition and plan to volunteer again next year. Lt. Oliver echoed the sentiments of the soldiers, "We enjoyed the day and were very happy to reward these great kids for job well done."



Helping at a Special event

Several National Guard soldiers lent their hands and hearts to more than 400 young athletes at the Special Olympics on May 10 at Barnstable High School.

Above, Staff Sgt. Thomas Klimm and Sgt. Robert Silva guide some children during the awards ceremony.

To the right, Sgt. 1st Class Frank Murphy with his Special Olympian granddaughter, Lindsey.

Photos by 1st Lt. Jerrime Oliver
Commander of A Battery, 101st Field Artillery

Quote of the Month:

"We sleep safe in our beds because rough men stand ready in the night to visit violence on those who would do us harm."

- George Orwell